

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

School Facilities Matching Grant Initiative set forth in House Bill 267

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

702 KAR 1:001, KRS 157.440 (Tier I)

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education certify Elliot County's eligibility to participate in the School Facilities Matching Grant Initiative and enable the district to receive funds as directed by HB 267?

History/Background:

House Bill 267 requires that the Kentucky Board of Education certify the eligibility of a local school district to meet the following requirements to participate in the School Facilities Matching Grant Initiative so that awards from the \$225,000 appropriation in fiscal year 2005-06 can be made no later than August 31, 2005:

- 1) The local district has received a monetary contribution in excess of \$900,000 in the prior fiscal year that was dedicated to a project on the District Facilities Plan.
- 2) The local district has an equivalent tax rate in excess of the district's maximum Tier I equivalent tax rate.
- 3) The local district has more than 75% of its students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

The requirements target those districts that demonstrate local need by virtue of their number of free and reduced lunch students and the fact that the local tax rate exceeds Tier I. It also takes into consideration the initiative of districts that have successfully secured funds from private sources to assist in their documented construction needs.

Of the 176 districts in the Commonwealth:

- Twenty-two (22) districts exceed 75% of their student population qualifying for free and reduced lunch. They are:

Bell County
Breathitt County
Clay County

Clinton County
Corbin Independent
Covington Independent

Elliot County
Fulton Independent
Harlan County
Jackson County
Knott County
Knox County
Lee County
Leslie County

Magoffin County
McCreary County
Menifee County
Newport Independent
Owsley County
Perry County
West Point Independent
Whitley County

- All 176 districts except Carlisle County, Livingston County, Bath County and Wolfe County have an equivalent tax rate in excess of the district's maximum Tier I equivalent tax rate.
- In KDE's determination, only Elliot County has received a monetary contribution in excess of \$900,000 in the prior fiscal year that was dedicated to a project on the District Facilities Plan.

Thus, only Elliot County meets all three criteria set forth in the provisions of the bill.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education certify Elliot County School District's eligibility to receive the appropriated \$225,000 from the School Facilities Matching Grant Initiative in fiscal year 2005-2006. Elliot County School District has met the criteria set forth in HB 267. These monies have been appropriated based upon the criteria noted. This will not constitute a recurring expense.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

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